/156 cont./

997 Today, besides Mr. Matthews, only one missionary of
997 the Melanesian Mission periodically lives on Nitendi, and coloni-
169 zation by Whites has never been very great. Thus there is little direct contact between Whites and natives on the island itself.

181 The inhabitants of Nitendi do not enjoy a very good repu-
648 tation and are regarded as war-like and aggressive, probably not entirely unjustly, for Mendaña himself, the discoverer of the island, was greeted with a hail of arrows, even before he landed.
[609] This was the customary welcome accorded almost every stranger in Melanesia, however, and if elsewhere strangers were first induced to land then attacked, this in itself shows the more candid and more courageous character of the Nitendi men. And in fact, they seem candid and not very crafty, at least in comparison with the inhabitants of the New Hebrides. Now that they have become accustomed to generally peaceful intercourse with Whites as a result of missions and recruitment, they are, in contrast to other Melanesians, gay, trustful, and obliging, even in
[596] front of Whites. Only a slight infraction of their etiquette, however, arouses spontaneous enmity. Then they reach for the bow and arrow, but their anger quickly subsides, especially if they do not have the advantage, and a payment will usually atone for the crime. Often it seems as though they fight only to satisfy their laws. The beginnings of gratitude are there.

181 A sense for the comic is strongly developed. There is
522 great fondness for ridicule, and their wit seems to be keen and to the point. A man's weak side is grasped in a moment and forever afterward it is laughed at and ridiculed. They have no compassion. Other people's suffering leaves them cold or amuses them, whereas their own pain is very strongly felt, not so much chronic suffering as acute injury.

231 Animals are tortured out of carelessness, but domestic
● 855 animals are well cared for. Children are treated tenderly (1),

1. [Probably everywhere the smaller
854 children are carried by the mother on the left hip in the bark-cloth shawl,

/156 cont./

854 the larger children riding on the back (male children by the father). Documentation for Tumotu: O'Ferrall, Santa Cruz and the Reef Islands, the section "A New School Village"; for the Reef Islands: Coombe, plate facing p. 211, and Speiser, Südsee, Ill. 94, and 96.]

Children are treated tenderly (1),

●855 but they seem to love them chiefly because they are entertain-
[562] ing. The woman is apparently despised, but there are cases of conjugal love.

181 /157/ The bargaining instinct is strongly pronounced,
437 but they are not dishonest or particularly avaricious in trading. On the other hand, the people are rather thievish, and to be sure not altogether because they are accustomed to a certain communism, as seems to be the case on Polynesian islands.

574 The visitor to a village is usually taken to the men's house, where he is offered a clean mat and a headrest and is served food as a token of hospitality (1). According to Coombe,

1. [Speiser, Südsee, p. 293. Coombe, p. 180, mentions the extravagant generosity of the Nitendi people toward
[576] strangers. Yet etiquette requires that one not talk much with a guest (ibid., p. 182).]

[576] p. 182, however, it is improper to show pleasure over a gift
[431] because this implies that the giver has made a great sacrifice and is a poor man. They like to show a guest their possessions,
[436] especially the best roll of feather money. Also, the men are
[462] not unwilling to show their skill in weaving and plaiting nets. This brings about a certain familiarity, so that one easily forms
181 too favorable an opinion of the people, until he again has occasion to observe their baser instincts.